

CITY OF DELTA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

PROGRESS REPORT # 4

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

INTRODUCTION

This progress report addresses issues, concerns, and problems expressed by the public at the workshop facilitated on July 16, 2007 from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center. Thirty-eight people attended the workshop. The workshop consisted of three parts:

1. An open house – the public was given an opportunity to review maps and graphs prepared to date and engage in informal discussions with city staff and consultants.
2. A facilitated discussion of issues, concerns and problems that should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.
3. Small group discussions about what kind of community Delta should be in 20 years.

ISSUES, CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS

The issues, concerns and problems identified by the public were recorded on poster paper and then displayed on the wall for easy visibility and to offer an opportunity to correct or modify what was written. The items recorded on poster paper are presented below in the order in which comments were received, with minor modifications for clarity.

1. Scrap the truck bypass.
2. Why is not the truck bypass proposed for Road G50?
3. The city doesn't have an animal shelter (Animal Control is not a shelter).
4. Uncontrolled growth, no green spaces is a danger. Maintain Delta's identity as a farm community.
5. Need jobs if people keep coming. Need economic development.
6. Keep city a reasonable size. Manage growth.
7. Build new houses where old, deteriorating ones now exist.
8. Cluster industry and other uses – intelligent design.
9. Concern about losing open space.
10. Concern about diversity of interviewees.
11. Do more interviews (25-30 more).
12. Give business owners who don't live here a voice.
13. Include people outside Delta area in interviews.
14. Hire locals for local government jobs.
15. Demonstrate more pride in the community – have a 125 year anniversary celebration.
16. Consider city's infrastructure needs, including drainage, water, sewer and electric.
17. The truck bypass will detract from the recreation center and all of Confluence Park.
18. Build Veteran's Park but move away from bypass.
19. Bypass won't work now.
20. Don't scrap bypass – need due to traffic.
21. Need bypass, but put it somewhere else.
22. Need better youth services – still room for more activities in Confluence Park.
23. Need a college.
24. Need more diverse restaurants.

25. Emphasize sustainability, including modular housing. New housing is not “green”, not attractive. Emphasize solar and wind energy. Conventional energy is expensive.
26. Artwork, flowers on Main St. should be preserved and enhanced.
27. Need flexible transportation, including mass transit and distribution systems.
28. US 50 through North Delta is the corridor into town – take care of, cleanup the corridor. It is the first impression of Delta.
29. Esthetics are important.
30. Water pressure in North Delta is affected by new high density housing.

WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY SHOULD DELTA BE IN 20 YEARS?

Workshop participants were seated at round tables with four to seven people at each table for the purpose of engaging in small group discussions. One sheet of poster paper was placed on each table with the above question written at the top of the sheet. Several 3” x 3” post-it pads were also placed on each table. Each workshop participant was instructed to write at least one answer to the question on a post-it pad. After approximately five minutes, participants at each table discussed their responses to the question with others seated at their table, grouping similar responses into various categories and affixing the post-it notes on the poster sheet. At the end of the exercise, a spokesperson from each table presented the results to the entire audience.

The ideas/comments expressed by workshop participants will be used to help the consultants to craft an overall vision statement for Delta. More specific comments will be a basis for goals for the various planning elements (economic development, land use, community character, etc.) and for policies and action items that will be developed to achieve the overall vision and goals. The comments resulting from the small group discussions are organized below into four categories:

1. Elements of an overall vision statement.
2. More specific goals for the various planning elements.
3. Policies to achieve the goals.
4. Action items to implement the policies.

Elements of an Overall Vision Statement

- ◆ Small to medium convention city.
- ◆ Maintain small town friendly attitude.
- ◆ Strong sense of community identity.
- ◆ Retirement community.
- ◆ Bedroom community with amenities with a population of 15,000.
- ◆ Pedestrian friendly, walkable community.
- ◆ An agricultural distribution center for the west slope.
- ◆ A place where ranching and farming are still important.
- ◆ An arts community that isn’t artsy.
- ◆ A progressive small town offering cultural events and activities
- ◆ Delta better than it is now.
- ◆ A local shopping area that does not compete with Montrose.
- ◆ Economic independence.
- ◆ Beautiful, historic town with a charming downtown.
- ◆ Value our integrated community.

- ◆ A community that has vision, anticipates good change and is willing to invest now for later rewards.
- ◆ A community that promotes healthy living and lifestyles.
- ◆ A fishing destination.
- ◆ Quiet community.
- ◆ A well planned community that young people want to stay in or move back to after school.

More Specific Goals for Various Planning Elements

- ◆ Adequate living wage, jobs.
- ◆ Strong, diverse, local businesses.
- ◆ Clean, low-impact manufacturing jobs and base industries that are clean and light.
- ◆ Keep as much open space and farmland as possible.
- ◆ Adequate infrastructure, including an adequate street system with sidewalks and curb and gutter.
- ◆ Expand local power generation with renewable energy.
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system (walking trails, bike paths, public transit)
- ◆ Increase art
- ◆ Increase senior facilities.
- ◆ First rate education for our kids.
- ◆ Integrate high school with college.
- ◆ Esthetic, pretty corridors into town, including an inviting north entrance on US 50.
- ◆ Managed placement, intelligent design of land uses.
- ◆ Intergovernmental cooperation.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Delta should have a sufficient tax base to support desired services and should be willing to “de-Bruce”.
- ◆ Need more and better parks, including neighborhood parks.
- ◆ Improve traffic control on residential streets.
- ◆ Noise control.

Policies to Achieve Goals

- ◆ No truck bypass in front of recreation center.
- ◆ Truck bypass where it is currently planned.
- ◆ Convert downtown to pedestrian only.
- ◆ Preserve the downtown area, a piece of the history of Delta.
- ◆ Encourage beauty, murals, sculpture, flowers.
- ◆ Support companies that hire and train local young people.
- ◆ Allow quality prefab homes to make affordable housing affordable.
- ◆ Based on zoning, pre-designate playground areas.
- ◆ Designate open space and agricultural areas.
- ◆ All residential lot sizes should be 10,000 sq. ft.
- ◆ City regulations should be flexible and protective of general values without imposing micromanagement – incentive-based codes and regulations, not punitive oriented.

- ◆ Work with countywide mosquito control.
- ◆ Annex more land into city.

Action Items to Implement Policies

- ◆ Improve storm drains.
- ◆ Upgrade water lines.
- ◆ Create bypass from G50 Road to Vo-Tech.
- ◆ Extend Pioneer Road.
- ◆ Enact a dog control/pit bull ordinance.
- ◆ Build an efficient animal shelter.
- ◆ Enact a junk vehicle/trailer cleanup ordinance.
- ◆ Establish a creatively staffed youth services division to get kids off streets.
- ◆ Build a sports complex.
- ◆ Create a looped trail system.
- ◆ Enlarge the recreation center with more recreation programs for young and old.
- ◆ Develop a convention center.
- ◆ Develop a visitor center with meeting rooms.
- ◆ Large lumber yard.
- ◆ Find ideas in other American towns that could work here.
- ◆ Develop a city park from RR tracks to Gunnison River and Palmer to Uncompahgre River.
- ◆ Develop a green building, alternative energy code.
- ◆ Build a community gathering place/convention center.
- ◆ Maintain Confluence Park and keep it in a useable condition.
- ◆ Develop better rules for housing developers and infrastructure.
- ◆ Review home rule charter and revise to be more realistic.